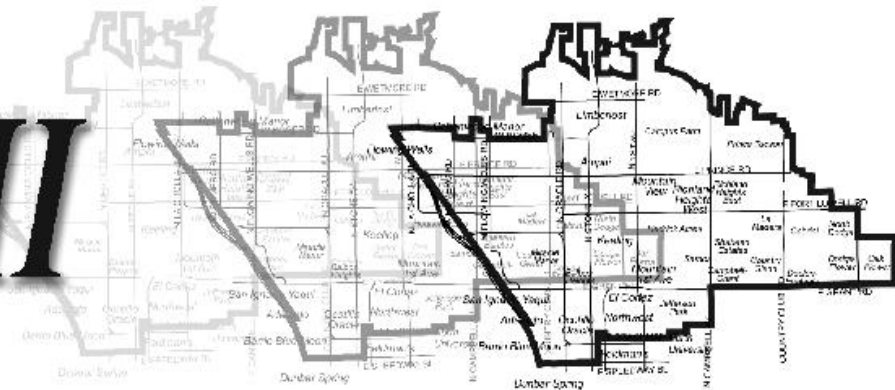


WARD III



News about your community . . .

TUCSON, ARIZONA

Karin Uhlich
Council Member



FEBRUARY/MARCH
2010

A Note from Karin

Dear Tucsonans,

Just as everyone in the public and private sectors must tighten budgets these days, we're doing so in the Ward 3 office. We've cut spending by over 20% since 2008-2009, including the elimination of one staff position and 9 staff furlough days this fiscal year (most of that unpaid time off will be staggered to keep our doors open to serve you).

We're also reorganizing our work to sustain service despite staffing reductions. That means changes that we recently discussed with Ward 3 residents at our January Community Conversation.

Instead of trying to attend every neighborhood association meeting (we have 35 across Ward 3!) all aides will attend our monthly Ward 3 Community Conversations (last Monday) as well as monthly Ward 3 Neighbors Alliance meetings (third Wednesdays) to touch bases with neighborhood representatives by "sector" (west-central-east). They'll also focus support through multi-neighborhood coalitions (e.g. Weed and Seed, Alvernon-Grant, Mansfield, Oracle Corridor) and help organize new ones. Residents agreed that this will not only be more efficient, it will encourage communication and collaboration between neighborhoods as well as with business coalitions formed across the Ward (Gateway, Campbell Ave, etc). My staff will be sharing more about this new model with association and coalition leaders over the coming months.

We must also acknowledge severe cuts in City staffing across all departments, and make sure that our constituent service respects the need for calls to be appropriately prioritized. City staff must increasingly focus on safety calls and other high-priority issues, meaning more routine or "non-emergency" concerns will likely take longer to resolve. You can be sure we will alert departments to constituent complaints and continue to help you connect with the right direct contact person if problems arise.

I want to thank my entire staff: Miguel, Tamara, George, Linda, Lisa, Holly, and our soon-departing Vista Volunteer Hector Arellano. They work tirelessly and appreciate both the challenges and rewards of public service. I also want to thank our partners in Ward 3 and across the community; everyone who volunteers and participates to make Tucson the best City it can be.

Jefferson Park Neighborhood Garden Tour

Sunday, April 18, 2010 - Noon to 5:00 p m

By: Holly Lachowicz

Urban living begs for outside spaces of calmness and beauty. Participants in the Jefferson Park tour will be amazed at the variety, versatility, and beauty of the gardens tucked away behind the houses in this unique neighborhood. At least three of the sites have water harvesting features and will have expert "do-it-your-selves" on hand to share information. You can learn about urban chickens, organic vegetable gardening, a "poor man's green house" and water gardening, complete with water lilies, foot bridges, ramadas and even a turtle sanctuary. Two gardens, owned by professional artists, illustrate how to combine art with nature. One of the xeriscape gardens was awarded the 2009 Grand Prize by Tucson Botanical Gardens.

From its early beginnings as the homestead of a 26 year-old German girl, to the many U of A Polo Fields immediately south, to the growing U of A and UMC, Jefferson Park neighborhood has been home to doctors, professors, students, retirees, artists, blue collar and white collar workers. Much is being learned about this history because Jefferson Park Neighborhood is in the process of establishing itself as an historic district.

Come away inspired, informed, and invigorated to "go and do likewise". Drive or walk to the 10 sites within the square mile neighborhood, beginning at the City of Tucson Ward 3 office, 1510 E Grant. Ticket/brochure for adults \$10, supervised children under 12 free.

Further information:

Joan Daniels, 520-323-2165,

jdchama@msn.com

Liz Burrola, 520-322-0338

Did you know The Tucson Gem and Mineral Show began in Ward 3?

By: Richard Sense, Keeling Neighborhood Resident

The 56th annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, Jan. 30 – Feb 14, 2010, is the largest event of its kind in the world. Fifty thousand visitors were expected to attend this year, and at least 100 million dollars will hopefully be added to the Tucson economy.

In 1954 the show had very humble beginnings. A dozen local mineral collectors set up exhibits in the parking lot of Helen Keeling Elementary School at 2837 N. Los Altos St. Two mineral dealers were also invited to set up tables. A hundred or so visitors were expected, but the event drew many hundreds! There were more exhibits in 1955, but so many people attended that something had to be done. The rest is history.



In this yard two harvesting cisterns frame a goldfish pond.



A bridge into a wonderland of ponds and tortoise enclosures.



A young spectator at the Gem and Mineral Show.

Moving Forward on Stream-Lining the Department of Planning & Development Services (PDSD) Processes

By: George Pettit and
Ernie Duarte, Director-Planning & Development Services (PDSD)

In 2006, not long after coming into office, Council Member Uhlich was hearing from the development community about the problems associated with getting projects through the Development Services Department (DSD) in a timely manner. Through a Mayor and Council Subcommittee she chaired, and with the support of Council Member Scott, they directed the City Manager to problem solve the issues identified by the business community—those people ended up becoming an advisory committee to DSD, now PDSD, Planning & Development Services Department.

As a result, their number one objective, to reduce or eliminate overruling of approved plans in the field and stopping of projects, has been completed through a departmental policy.

Another objective, of reducing development plan processing time, was achieved through the creation of a new, streamlined, development standard that allows for the concurrent/parallel reviews of development and improvement plans. This has reduced the time of submittal to permit by 50%. Real life projects that utilize the “Development Package” process include: Southgate Shopping Center redevelopment, Texas Instruments in the Williams Center, all new QuikTrips, El Rio Health Clinic, TMC, Jim Click Used Cars, Wesson (Caylor) Rezoning, TCC Entrance, to name a few. This Development Package standard will be nominated for an MPA Common Ground Award in 2010.

The group is also working on improving the Certificate of Occupancy (C of O) process for existing buildings. This involves simplifying the plan submittal and inspection processes for C of O applications. This resulted in greater numbers of C of O's being issued and fewer applications being withdrawn or expiring. New parking changes for existing buildings were made to the Land Use Code (LUC) as a result. Parking changes continue to be made as an overall effort to streamline the LUC.

Currently, the advisory group is looking to bring permitting agencies, i.e. fire, PDSD, Pima Health, etc. together to streamline and coordinate their processes.

"For the past seven years we have asked customers to fill out comment cards after the permit or inspection process. At the outset I used to fear the results, with close to 50% of people critical of our department's performance. Now, however, we are up to 90% customer satisfaction with our work. The goal remains, of course, to reach 100% satisfaction."

Ernie Duarte, Director - PDSD



"I have found the Planning and Development Services staff to be very helpful when Miramonte Neighborhood has had land use issues to address. Recently, the information on line has made it easier to stay informed about what is happening in our area. The Department is there for all of us citizens, not just the developers. Don't hesitate to call them if you have any questions."

Ruth Beeker, Tucson Resident



"The average in Arizona to get a zoned piece of property developed is roughly 14 months. Our experience here (Tucson) is roughly about 6 to 7 months....kind of exciting for us to get from point A to point B and open a store a lot quicker."

QuikTrip representative Troy DeVoss,
in a KVOA interview that played on
January 27, 2010



"We certainly appreciate the work of the advisory committee and Ernie Duarte, Director of Planning & Development Services and his staff for working so diligently on this project."

Council Member Karin Uhlich and
the staff at Ward 3

CITY/COUNTY WATER & WASTEWATER STUDY UPDATE

By: Holly Lachowicz

On January 12th, the Pima County Board of Supervisors and Tucson City Council convened a joint public hearing for Phase 2 of the City/County Water and Wastewater Study. At the meeting, the Board of Supervisors adopted the recommendations of Phase 2 Report. The City Council voted to wait 30 days before acting on the recommendations. The item was forwarded for adoption on a 7-0 vote at the February 9th Mayor and Council meeting, with the final vote taking place at the February 17 meeting. This will also be a topic of discussion at our February 22 Community Conversation. See "Save the Date" schedule for time and place. You can also follow the process that led up to the meeting at: <http://www.tucsonpimawaterstudy.com>



Gateway Saguaro Art Piece

By: Jennifer Burdick,
Community Planning & Development Division

We are pleased to share the news that the "floating" neon Gateway Saguaro, designed by artist Dirk J. Arnold, was installed recently in the Oracle Road median north of Drachman Street. The Gateway Saguaro art piece was selected last fall by a committee formed through an extensive public process conducted by Tucson-Pima Arts Council (TPAC) between 2008-2009. Of the 30 artists that responded to TPAC's 'Call to Artists,' the Gateway Saguaro was selected for the many ways it pays homage to the history of Oracle Road as the northern auto gateway into downtown Tucson.

The neon Saguaro is installed a few feet away from the historic 'University of Arizona' gateway marker, a vestige of the roundabout that was removed as part of the 2007 roadway project that squared off the Drachman Street/Oracle Road/Main Avenue interchange. The southern roundabout was installed as a southern anchor to the city's original 'Miracle Mile', a 1.75-mile stretch of Oracle Road between today's Miracle Mile Road and Drachman Street. This stretch was known as 'Miracle Mile' after a 1938 roadway demonstration project employed highly successful innovative traffic engineering techniques on the roadway - namely, the medians, curbs and striping - that resulted in fewer accidents and deaths. The 'Miracle Mile' segment brought national acclaim to Tucson. (When I-10 was built, and the traffic diverted from Oracle Road, the area fell into decline. The segment was renamed to Oracle Road in 1986 in an effort to change the area's image.) Wiring to connect the neon Saguaro to electricity will be completed in the near future.



Construction of the "floating"
Gateway Saguaro.

Free Tax Preparation has Begun at Ward 3

By: Hector Arellano

As reported in the last newsletter, the Ward 3 office has teamed up with the United Way of Southern Arizona to host the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program. The VITA program offers **free** tax preparation to low-to-moderate-income people, through the use of IRS-certified volunteers. Last year, the Ward 3 site completed over 300 returns.

VITA gives taxpayers an alternative to paid tax preparers, many of which engage in predatory lending practices, charging them as much as 400% APR on a Tax Refund Anticipation Loan.

Also, at the Ward 3 VITA site you will find CA\$H (Creating Assets, Savings, and Hope) volunteers (which I happen to be one of) that will assist waiting VITA participants in connecting them with free resources they may be entitled to, along with workforce development and financial education referrals.

I highly recommend this program to anyone that qualifies. Please make sure to come early since the waiting list fills up quickly.

The Ward 3 VITA site is located at 1510 E. Grant Rd.

Tuesday - 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Requirements:

Individuals earning less than \$25,000;

Families earning less than \$50,000;

What to bring to a VITA site:

Picture I.D. for taxpayer and spouse (if applicable);

Social Security cards for EACH family member;

Proof of income including W2's and 1099 forms;

Documentation of deductible expenses;

Account and routing numbers of checking and/or saving accounts for direct deposit;

Prior year's tax return (if possible).

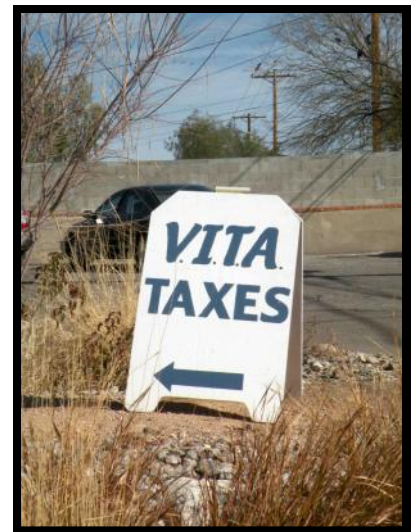
All returns are electronically filed, and most refunds are received in less than two weeks.



This site is accessible to disabled persons.



Volunteers from VITA looking over one of many tax returns.



The VITA sign outside the Ward 3 Council Office.

Ward 3 Neighbors' Alliance - Community Involvement

By: Marc Haberman, Chair Steering Committee

With all of the budget cuts we are experiencing today, therein lies the opportunity to be innovative in ways we have not been before, with our community involvement. Necessity brings out creativity in ways that we may not have previously imagined. This can be the best year ever for Ward 3 and the most efficient use of government to date.

The Ward 3 Neighbors' Alliance seeks to work more closely with the Ward office to better support them in keeping our city safe, prosperous, and to maintain a high quality of living. We also wish to involve small business in the neighborhood affairs, and to be involved in local business concerns.

One of our goals is to keep everyone informed and to assist in finding appropriate solutions to timely concerns of the different neighborhoods in Ward 3. I hope you'll join us the third Wednesday of each month at 6pm at Woods Library.



The Amazing SeeClickFix!

By: Hector Arellano

Imagine walking around Ward 3 and coming across graffiti on a building, a huge pothole, or any other non-emergency issue. Instead of trying to find the appropriate contact in City Hall or calling the Ward 3 office, you can now use a new web service called SeeClickFix to report the issue directly to the City by using your mobile phone.

I have been using SeeClickFix for a few weeks now and can vouch that it's amazing. I began by downloading the SeeClickFix app for my iPhone (also available for Android and Blackberry), then I proceeded to find a large pothole near the Ward 3 office, once I found one, I used the app to take a picture and submit the details to the SeeClickFix website.

By using SeeClickFix, I was able to get my issue fixed in less than a week (see pictures). Though that might have been due to the fact that I was one of the first issues on the site. Nevertheless, I urge everyone to visit SeeClickFix.com and to download the app if you have a compatible phone. I think this is a very exciting service that empowers residents to take responsibility for their neighborhood.

Website:

<http://www.seeclickfix.com/tucson>

Tucson Sentinel article:

<http://bit.ly/d27jWQ>



Snapshot of pothole on
East Edison - (Before)



(After)

Multi-Neighborhood Coalitions

By: Tamara Prime

As neighborhoods look for ways to strengthen their efforts and support their neighbors, multi-neighborhood coalitions are being formed throughout Ward 3. Many of these coalitions have been operating for some time, while others are in the early stages of development. In all cases, this approach to neighborhood building is becoming more important. Joining forces with neighboring communities has a number of positive outcomes including:

- Increase in information sharing related to crime trends and community resources;
- Increase in energy for volunteers, who are seeing their time and resources shrink;
- Improved focus of government resources on broad community priorities;
- Improved cross neighborhood partnering on shared goals.

In neighborhoods throughout the Ward, it is not uncommon to have a small handful of committed volunteers serving as the core of neighborhood association activity. These regular, consistent volunteers assure that communication is maintained, and that progress is made on community goals. There are also numerous volunteers within each neighborhood that, while not regular meeting attendees, play a critical neighborhood role by: serving as project or committee liaisons, attending community cleanup events/activities, and maintaining a watchful eye on suspicious activities. In all cases, community volunteers are stretched thin and looking for ways to maximize their efforts. A few examples of successful multi-neighborhood coalitions on the West side of Ward 3 are:

Ward 3 Neighborhoods' Alliance – A unique Alliance model where representatives from all neighborhoods throughout Ward III gather to discuss and plan about shared concerns. The Ward 3 Neighborhoods' Alliance group meets the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

TOPS Committee – Neighborhoods and businesses in the Oracle Corridor meet monthly with Tucson Police Department to address quality of life issues. Neighbors who have participated include: Balboa Heights, Miracle Manor, Ocotillo, Blue Moon, and Coronado Heights. This group meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the TPD West side substation on Miracle Mile.

Mansfield Coalition – El Cortez, NWNC, and Keeling neighborhoods gather with surrounding housing complexes to plan activities and monitor safety for Mansfield Park and the Northwest Neighborhood Center. This group meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Parkside Terrace Apartments on 4th Avenue.

North Tucson Weed and Seed Coalition – For more than a year, residents in Amphi, Balboa Heights, Coronado Heights, El Cortez, Keeling, and Northwest hold monthly meetings with a wide range of community partners to increase public safety and decrease crime and substance abuse in the areas. This group meets the 3rd Monday of each month at 5:45 at the Westside substation.

Ward 3 staff will be focusing on providing support to these types of coalitions in the coming months.

Changes Made to How the Public Contacts City Officials, Staff

By: Lisa Ross

Changes have been made in reference to how constituents contact City elected officials and City staff. If you wish to e-mail or telephone the Mayor and City Council, you may do so by accessing individual office e-mail addresses and telephone numbers directly from the web page at <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/mcc>. This page also has links to each official's web page.

If you wish to contact City departments via e-mail, please visit <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/departments>. There are links from this website to visit each department and office web pages.

The former Mayor and Council Comment Line at 791-4700 now gives callers a menu to reach the individual offices of City elected Officials. Please stay on the line and designate the office you wish to leave a message with by entering the Ward number (i.e., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6).

Please know that whether you leave us a voicemail or e-mail, that your messages are important to us and we do want to reply to you personally. Please allow us time to research your inquiry in order to provide you with accurate information. If you are leaving us a comment, know that your comments are noted for the record and are forwarded to Council Member Uhlich and her staff for consideration.

Save the Date

By: Linda Mehall

February

February 17—Ward 3 Neighbors' Alliance Meeting. 6pm at Woods Library (3445 N. First Avenue). **Topic: "Power of Youth and Community Involvement."** For more information contact Marc Haberman at 881-4582.

Bleu55@gmail.com

February 18—"Green Your Business Workshop and Expo". 7:30am to 3pm at the Doubletree Hotel Reid Park (445 S. Alvernon). \$20 registration. For more information go to www.bomagt.org

February 22—"Community Conversation with CM Karin Uhlich."

Topic: City/County Water and Wastewater Study Phase II Report"- 6pm at the Ward 3 Council Office (1510 E. Grant Road). For more information contact the Ward 3 Council Office at: 791-4711.

March

March 6—"Lend-a-Hand" Outdoor Local Arts and Crafts Fair. 10am-2pm at Church of Christ (2848 N. Mountain Avenue). For more information email Alan Adler at ahadler@cox.net

March 13—North Tucson Weed and Seed Coalition invites you to a "Graffiti Clean-up Morning in the Amphi Neighborhood." Sponsored by Graffiti Protective Coatings. 8am at the Amphi Neighborhood Park (510 E. Navajo Road). For more information contact the Ward 3 Council office at 791-4711.

March 17—Ward 3 Neighbors' Alliance Meeting. 6pm at Woods Library (3445 N. First Avenue). **Topic: "How to be a Better Advocate."** For more information contact Marc Haberman at 881-4582. Bleu55@gmail.com

March 27—University of Arizona "Mortarboard Cleanup" in Northwest, El Cortez, Feldman, Jefferson Park and North University Neighborhoods. For more information contact the Ward 3 Council Office at 791-4711.

March 27—Cabrini NA Annual Spring Cleanup. 10am start time at Francis Cabrini Church, 3201 E. Presidio Rd. Donations for the Food Bank accepted. For more information call 881-4582. In addition, there will be a neighborhood yard sale. For more information contact Daryl at CabriniNA12@cox.net

March 29—"Community Conversation with CM Karin Uhlich."

Topic: (To Be Determined) - 6pm at the Ward 3 Council Office.

April

April 18—Jefferson Park Neighborhood Garden Tour. Noon to 5pm. Tickets are \$10, tour begins at the Ward 3 Council Office. For more information contact Joan Daniels at 323-2165.

April 21—Ward 3 Neighbors' Alliance Meeting. 6pm at Woods Library (3445 N. First Avenue). **Topic: "Local Business Involvement in Neighborhoods."** For more information contact Marc Haberman at 881-4582. Bleu55@gmail.com

April 24—Greater Business Alliance Historic Tour. For more information contact Susan Alexander at 620-0144.

April 26—"Community Conversation with CM Uhlich."

Topic: (To Be Determined) - 6pm at the Ward 3 Council Office.

Ward 3

1510 East Grant Road

Tucson, Arizona 85719

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WARD 3 STAFF

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Holly Lachowicz, Council Aide

George Pettit, Council Aide

Tamara Prime, Council Aide

Linda Mehall, Executive Assistant

Lisa Ross, Administrative Assistant

Hector Arellano, VISTA Volunteer

**On behalf of the
Ward 3 Council Office, we
would like to thank
Hector Arellano, our Vista
Volunteer, for his efforts
and contributions that he
offered to us this past
year.**

**We wish him all the best
and good fortunes as he
steps forward into a new
career.**